(b) *Federal Reserve Bank* refers to the Federal Reserve Bank or Branch providing savings bond services to the district in which the issuing agent or the applicant organization is located. See § 317.9 (a).

(c) *Issuing agent* refers to an organization that has been granted a certificate of qualification by a designated Federal Reserve Bank to sell savings bonds. The definition encompasses (1) each organization that accepts and processes purchase orders for bonds sold over-the-counter, but does not inscribe bonds, and (2) each organization that is authorized to inscribe bonds sold over-the-counter or through payroll savings plans.

(d) *Offering circular* refers to Department of the Treasury Circular, Public Debt Series No. 1–80, current revision.

(e) *Organization* means an entity, as described in § 317.2, which may qualify as an issuing agent of bonds.

[54 FR 40830, Oct. 3, 1989, as amended at 59 FR 10535, Mar. 4, 1994]

§ 317.2 Organizations authorized to act.

Organizations eligible to apply for qualification and serve as savings bond issuing agents include:

(a) Banks, Federal credit unions in good standing, trust companies, and savings institutions chartered by or incorporated under the laws of the United States, or those of any State or Territory of the United States, the District of Columbia, or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico;

(b) Agencies of the United States and of State and local governments; and

(c) Employers operating payroll savings plans for the purchase of United States Savings Bonds.

[45 FR 64091, Sept. 26, 1980, as amended at 57 FR 34684, Aug. 6, 1992]

§ 317.3 Procedure for qualifying and serving as issuing agent.

(a) *Execution of application agreement.* The applicant-organization shall obtain from, duly execute, and file with, a designated Federal Reserve Bank, an application-agreement form.

(1) The terms of each application agreement shall include the provisions prescribed by section 202 of Executive Order No. 11246, entitled ''Equal Employment Opportunity'' (3 CFR, subchapter B, 42 U.S.C. 2000e note).

(2) The provisions of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended (5 U.S.C. 552a), and regulations issued pursuant thereto (31 CFR part 1, subpart C).

(b) *Certificate of qualification.* Upon approval of an application-agreement, the designated Federal Reserve Bank will issue a certificate of qualification to the organization. Until the receipt of such a certificate, an organization shall not perform any act as an issuing agent, or advertise in any manner that it is authorized to so act or that it has applied for qualification as an issuing agent. After receipt of a certificate of qualification, an organization may perform the functions of an issuing agent. Under the terms of the application-agreement, the proceeds of the sale of bonds are at all times the property of the United States for which the organization shall be fully accountable.

(c) *Adverse action or change in qualification.* An organization will be notified by the designated Federal Reserve Bank if its application-agreement to act as issuing agent is not approved, or if, after issuance, its certificate of qualification is terminated.

[54 FR 40830, Oct. 3, 1989, as amended at 59 FR 10535, 10536, Mar. 4, 1994]

§ 317.4 Issuing agents currently qualified.

Each organization, qualified as an issuing agent under a trust agreement currently in effect, is authorized to continue to act in that capacity without requalification. By so acting, it shall be subject to the terms and conditions of the previously executed application-agreement and these regulations in the same manner and to the same extent as though it had requalified hereunder.

§ 317.5 Termination of qualification.

(a) *By the United States.* The Secretary of the Treasury or a delegate may terminate the qualification of an issuing agent at any time, upon due notice to the agent. If this action is taken, the agent will be required to make a final accounting for the balance of savings bond stock for which it is charged, based on the records of the designated Federal Reserve Bank. The